

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 10-20 without prejudice, amend Claims 1-9 as follows and add Claims 21- 35;

1.(Currently Amended) A lifting apparatus for a two-leaf folding flap ~~whose~~ having an upper leaf (3) ~~is~~ structured and arranged to be hinged to a top or partition wall (1) of a cupboard around a horizontal first axle (2) and ~~whose a~~ a lower leaf (5) ~~is~~ structured and arranged to be pivotally connected to the upper leaf (3) around a second axle (4) parallel to the first axle (2), comprising

at least one two-armed lever (13, 30, 56) which is structured and arranged to be pivotally mounted to a side body part (8) around a horizontal pivot axle (12) and ~~whose~~ having a longer arm (15) ~~is~~ structured and arranged to be linked to the lower leaf (5); and

a compression spring element (20) ~~whose~~ having one end ~~is~~ structured and arranged to be pivotally connected to the said body part (8) and ~~whose other~~ an opposite end ~~is~~ structured and arranged to be pivotally connected to the said lever (13, 30, 56);

~~characterised in that the~~ wherein

said lever (13, 30, 56) ~~is~~ structured and arranged to be guided in a longitudinally displaceable manner on its said pivot axle (12) and ~~the~~ has a shorter arm (16) ~~is~~ structured and arranged to be guided in a cam guide (9) fixed to the said body part (8) via a slide block or a roller (17).

2.(Currently Amended) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an upper end section (10) of ~~the~~ said cam guide (9) is inclined at an acute angle ~~into the~~ with respect to an inside of the cupboard and ~~the~~ an adjacent section (11) of ~~the~~ said cam guide (9) extends in curved form around ~~the~~ said pivot axle (12).

3. (Currently amended) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said pivot axle (12) penetrates an elongate opening (14) of ~~the~~ said lever (13, 30).

4. (Currently amended) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said longer lever arm ~~(56) consists of (30) comprises~~ two parts (31, 32 33) which are structured and arranged to be displaceable relative to one another and fixable to one another.

5. (Currently amended) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said spring element (20) is hinged to ~~the~~ said longer lever arm (31, 32).

6. (Currently amended) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said lever (13) is provided in ~~the~~ a region of ~~the~~ said pivot axle (12) with a third arm (19) to which ~~the~~ said spring element (20) is hinged.

7. (Currently amended) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said spring element (20) is hinged to one end of a link (53) ~~whose other~~ having an opposite end is linked to ~~the~~ said body part (50) and ~~wherein~~ a rod (54) is hinged ~~like a connecting rod~~ at one end to ~~the~~ said link (53), between its joints, with ~~its~~ other an opposite end being linked to ~~the~~ said lever (50) or to a third arm (55) of ~~the~~ said lever (56).

8. (Currently amended) A lifting apparatus in accordance with ~~any of~~ claim 4 ~~7~~, wherein ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of ~~the~~ said spring element (20) or ~~of the~~ rod (54) sweeps over ~~the~~ said pivot axle (12) of ~~the~~ said lever (50) between the closed ~~position~~ and the open ~~position~~ positions of the folding flap.

9. (Currently amended) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said spring element is a gas compression spring (20).

Claims 10-20. Canceled

21. (New) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 4, wherein said two parts (31, 32) of said longer lever arm (30) are each bent in a U shape and guided in one another in a telescopic manner,

one (31) of said two parts (31, 32) being provided with elongate openings (33) which lie in one plane, and

said other (32) of said two parts (31, 32) having guide pins (34) structured and arranged to seat in said respective elongate openings (33) to displaceably guide said other part (32) in said one part (31).

22. (new) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 21, wherein a web part (35) of said one part (31) is provided with an elongate opening (36) and a web part (37) of said other part (32) is provided with a tapped borehole (38), such that a setting screw (39) can be screwed through said elongate opening (36) into said tapped borehole (38) to fix said two parts (31, 32) to one another in desired position.

23.(new) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 22, wherein said body part (40) is in the shape of a plate-shaped part (41) provided

with fastening boreholes and having U shaped limbs (42,43) bent from respective upper and lower ends,

said cam guide (9) being positioned with a flanged edge into said plate-shaped part (41) and one (42) of said limbs (42, 43),

said opposite limb (43) and plate-shaped part (41) being provided, at crimped end regions, with hook-shaped cutouts (44) mutually coinciding in a lateral direction,

said spring element (20), comprising a holding axle (45) arranged to seat in said cutouts (44) and be retained therein, and

said longer lever arm (30) comprises a side projection (46) to which a piston rod of said spring element (20) is linked.

24. (new) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 9, wherein

said body part (40) is in the shape of a plate-shaped part (41) provided with fastening boreholes and having U shaped limbs (42,43) bent from respective upper and lower ends,

said cam guide (9) being positioned with a flanged edge into said plate-shaped part (41) and one (42) of said limbs (42, 43),

said opposite limb (43) and plate-shaped part (41) being provided, at crimped end regions, with hook-shaped cutouts (44) mutually coinciding in a lateral direction,

said spring element (20), comprising a holding axle (45) arranged to seat in said cutouts (44) and be retained therein, and

said longer lever arm (30) comprises a side projection (46) to which a piston rod of said spring element (20) is linked.

25. (new) A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 21, wherein said body part (40) is in the shape of a plate-shaped part (41) provided with fastening boreholes and having U shaped limbs (42,43) bent from respective upper and lower ends,

said cam guide (9) being positioned with a flanged edge into said plate-shaped part (41) and one (42) of said limbs (42, 43),

said opposite limb (43) and plate-shaped part (41) being provided, at crimped end regions, with hook-shaped cutouts (44) mutually coinciding in a lateral direction,

said spring element (20), comprising a holding axle (45) arranged to seat in said cutouts (44) and be retained therein, and

said longer lever arm (30) comprises a side projection (46) to which a piston rod of said spring element (20) is linked.

26.(new) The combination of a two-leaf folding flap and lifting apparatus therefor, comprising

an upper leaf (3) structured and arranged to be hinged to a top or partition wall (1) of a cupboard around a horizontal first axle (2),

a lower leaf (5) structured and arranged to be pivotally connected to said upper leaf (3) around a second axle (4) parallel to said first axle (2),

at least one two-armed lever (13, 30, 56) which is structured and arranged to be pivotally mounted to a side body part (8) around a horizontal pivot axle (12) and having a longer arm (15) linked to said lower leaf (5) and a shorter arm (16),

a compression spring element (20) having one end pivotally connected to said body part (8) and an opposite end pivotally connected to said lever (13, 30, 56),

said lever being guided in a longitudinally displaceable manner on said pivot axle (12),

a cam guide (9) fixed to said body part (8), and

a slide block or roller (17) for guiding said shorter arm (16) in said cam guide (9).

27. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 1, wherein an upper end section (10) of said cam guide (9) is inclined at an acute angle with respect to an inside of the cupboard and an adjacent section (11) of said cam guide (9) extends in curved form around said pivot axle (12).

28. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 26, wherein said pivot axle (12) penetrates an elongate opening (14) of said lever (13, 30).

29. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 26, wherein said longer lever arm (30) comprises two parts (31, 32) which are structured and arranged to be displaceable relative to one another and fixable to one another.

30. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 26, wherein said spring element (20) is hinged to longer lever arm (31, 32).

31. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 26, wherein said lever (13) is provided in a region of said pivot axle (12) with a third arm (19) to which said spring element (20) is hinged.

32. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 26, wherein said spring element (20) is hinged to one end of a link (53) having an opposite end linked to said body part (50) and a rod (54) is hinged at one end to said link (53), between its joints, with an opposite end being linked to said lever (50) or to a third arm (55) of said lever 56.

33. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 32, wherein a longitudinal axis of said spring element (20) or rod (54) sweeps over said pivot axle (12) of said lever (50) between closed and open positions of the folding flap.

34. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 26, wherein said spring element is a gas compression spring (20).

35. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 29, wherein said two parts (31, 32) of said longer lever arm (30) are each bent in a U shape and guided in one another in a telescopic manner,

one (31) of said two parts (31, 32) being provided with elongate openings (33) which lie in one plane, and

said other (32) of said two parts (31, 32) having guide pins (34) structured and arranged to seat in said respective elongate openings (33) to displaceably guide said other part (32) in said one part (31).

36. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 35, wherein a web part (35) of said one part (31) is provided with an elongate opening (36) and a web part (37) of said other part (32) is provided with a tapped borehole (38), such that a setting screw (39) can be screwed through said elongate opening (36) into said tapped borehole (38) to fix said two parts (31, 32) to one another in desired position.

37. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 36, wherein said body part (40) is in the shape of a plate-shaped part (41) provided with fastening boreholes and having U shaped limbs (42,43) bent from respective upper and lower ends,

said cam guide (9) being positioned with a flanged edge into said plate-shaped part (41) and one (42) of said limbs (42, 43),

said opposite limb (43) and plate-shaped part (41) being provided, at crimped end regions, with hook-shaped cutouts (44) mutually coinciding in a lateral direction,

said spring element (20), comprising a holding axle (45) arranged to seat in said cutouts (44) and be retained therein, and

said longer lever arm (30) comprises a side projection (46) to which a piston rod of said spring element (20) is linked.

38. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 34, wherein said body part (40) is in the shape of a plate-shaped part (41) provided with fastening boreholes and having U shaped limbs (42,43) bent from respective upper and lower ends,



said cam guide (9) being positioned with a flanged edge into said plate-shaped part (41) and one (42) of said limbs (42, 43),

said opposite limb (43) and plate-shaped part (41) being provided, at crimped end regions, with hook-shaped cutouts (44) mutually coinciding in a lateral direction,

said spring element (20), comprising a holding axle (45) arranged to seat in said cutouts (44) and be retained therein, and

said longer lever arm (30) comprises a side projection (46) to which a piston rod of said spring element (20) is linked.

39. (New) The combination in accordance with claim 35, wherein

said body part (40) is in the shape of a plate-shaped part (41) provided with fastening boreholes and having U shaped limbs (42,43) bent from respective upper and lower ends,

said cam guide (9) being positioned with a flanged edge into said plate-shaped part (41) and one (42) of said limbs (42, 43),

said opposite limb (43) and plate-shaped part (41) being provided, at crimped end regions, with hook-shaped cutouts (44) mutually coinciding in a lateral direction,

said spring element (20), comprising a holding axle (45) arranged to seat in said cutouts (44) and be retained therein, and

said longer lever arm (30) comprises a side projection (46) to which a piston rod of said spring element (20) is linked.